

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 IO-04 SY-04 DRC-01

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O R 201105Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9673

INFO AMCON BIEN HOA

AMCON CAN THO

AMCON DANANG

AMCON NHA TRANG

CINCPAC

USDEL JEC PARIS

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS; PINS PINT VS

SUBJECT: MADAME NBT STRIKES AGAIN

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. EXTREME OPPOSITION FIGURES, INCLUDING MADAME NGO BA THANH, BUDDHIST NUN HUYNH LIEN, DEPUTY KIEU MONG THU AND VENERABLE PHAP LAN ONCE AGAIN LED SUNDAY PROTEST DEMONSTRATION ON OCT 20.

2. IN MORNING, DEMONSTRATORS HELD CEREMONY IN COMMEMORATION VENERABLE QUANG DUC WHO BURNED HIMSELF IN 1963 IN PROTEST AGAINST NGO DINH DIEM. PICUTRES OF PRES THEU BURNED AND USUAL BANNERS DISPLAYED. DEMONSTRATORS THEN ATTEMPTED MARCH TO AN QUANG PAGODA BUT WERE TURNED BACK BY NATIONAL POLICE. AT
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1100 HOURS DEMONSTRATORS BURNED POLICE JEEP. CROWD WAS

ESTIMATED AT ABOUT THIS TIME AT 100 DEMONSTRATORS AND 100 SPECTATORS. DEMONSTRATORS NEVER NUMBERED MORE THAN 200.

3. IN FOLLOWING HOURS, MARCHERS MOVED BACK AND FOURTH BETWEEN CENTRAL MARKET AND LOWER HOUSE BUILDING, FINALLY DISBANDING AT ABOUT 1630 HOURS AT SAIGON HOSPITAL ON LE LOI STREET.

4. CONSIDERABLE ROCK THROWING TOOK PLACE IN FRONT OF LOWER HOUSE, AND SOME WINDOWS BROKEN. AMERICAN OBSERVERS NOTED THAT MOST DEMONSTRATORS YOUNG BOYS IN 10 TO 18 YEAR AGE BRACKET, AND THEY WERE ONES MAINLY RESPONSIBLE FOR DESTRUCTIVE ACTIVITIES; ROCK THROWING, BREAKING FLOWER POST, OVERTURNING POLICE SHELTER, ETC.

5. AT ONE POINT POLICE ARRESTED TWO DEMONSTRATORS ON CHARGE OF CARRYING HAND GRENADE. NO OTHER ARRESTS REPORTED. WHILE DEMONSTRATORS CLAIM SOME INJURIES AND SOME MIGHT EASILY HAVE OCCURRED FROM FLYING ROCKS, WE HAVE NO REPORTS OF SERIOUS INJURIES. END UNCLASSIFIED

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6. COMMENT. POLICE CONTINUE EXERCISE GREAT RESTRAINT IN FACE OF REPEATED PROVOCATIONS WHICH BECOMING REGULAR FEATURE SAIGON LIFE. RELATIVELY SMALL CROWDS ATTRACTED BY THESE EVENTS SUGGESTS POLICE TACTICS PAYING OFF. PARTICIPATION OF TEENAGE YOUTH, HOWEVER, A NEW FEATURE AND HOW LONG THEY CAN BE LEFT UNRESTRAINED TO "TRASH" TOWN REMAINS OPEN TO QUESTION. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.
MARTIN

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Message Attributes

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